

REMARKS

Claims 1-61 are pending. By this Response, Claims 28-61 have been withdrawn. Accordingly, Claims 1-27 are in the case.

In the Official Action, the Examiner has stated the belief the invention includes four (4) distinct inventions. The Examiner asked Applicants to elect an invention.

In response, Applicants traverse the restriction requirement and request the requirement be withdrawn and all claims examined in the present application. Pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 803, a restriction requirement is proper only if (1) the two or more claimed inventions are able to support separate patents; (2) the inventions are independent or distinct as claimed; and (3) there would be a serious burden on the Examiner if the restriction is not required. Here, Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's finding that the inventions maybe patentably distinct from each other. However, Applicants respectfully submit that a search and examination of a single claim set would likely cover all aspects of the application. This would not seem to impose a serious burden on the Examiner.

In addition to the above, Applicants are at a loss as to the purpose and support for Examiner's statement in paragraph 2 that "The subcombination has separate utility such as a tray that is used for growing plants in the compartments, a pallet that is usable as a platform over a mud-covered area, and a cover that can be used as a tray." Applicants do not recall such subcombinations being presented in the Application submitted to the PTO.

To the extent the Examiner does not agree with Applicants on the above points,
Applicants elect to prosecute the claims of Group I and associated with Claims 1-27 drawn to an
assembly. Applicants request the remaining claims, Claims 28-61, be withdrawn without
prejudice.

Respectfully submitted,

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